

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A network termination unit, comprising:
a port to connect the unit to a cable network;
 - a) ~~—~~a detector operable to receive command signals from a user, wherein the command signals include a pause signal;
 - b) ~~—~~a controller operable to control access to content wherein the cable network is a sole source of content external to the unit;
 - c) ~~—~~a timer operable to time a pause interval initiated at reception of the pause signal; and
 - d) ~~—~~a source of alternative content, operable to provide the controller with alternative content when the pause interval reaches a predetermined length of time, such that any alternative content located external to the unit resides on the cable network.
2. (original) The network termination unit of claim 1, wherein the network termination unit further comprises a set-top box.
3. (original) The network termination unit of claim 1, wherein the network termination unit further comprises a cable modem.
4. (original) The network termination unit of claim 1, wherein the controller is a processor.
5. (original) The network termination unit of claim 1, wherein the controller is a microcontroller.
6. (original) The network termination unit of claim 1, wherein the controller and the timer are provided by a central processing unit.
7. (original) The network termination unit of claim 1, wherein the source of alternative content is located in a memory located in the network termination unit.
8. (currently amended) The network termination unit of claim 1, wherein the source of alternative content is a connection to a remote server on the cable network.

9. (original) The network termination unit of claim 1, wherein the source of alternative content is programmable by the viewer.
- 10-14. (canceled)
- 15-19. (canceled)
20. (currently amended) A network termination unit, comprising:
a means for connecting the unit to a cable network;
a) —a means for receiving command signals from a user, wherein the command signals include a pause signal;
b) —a means for controlling access to content wherein the cable network is a sole source of content external to the unit;
c) —a means for timing a pause interval initiated at reception of the pause signal; and
d) —a means for providing alternative content, operable to provide the means for controlling access to content with alternative content when the pause interval reaches a predetermined length of time, such that any alternative content located external to the unit resides on the cable network.
21. (original) The network termination unit of claim 20, wherein the means for controlling access to content is a processor.
22. (original) The network termination unit of claim 20, wherein the means for controlling access to content is a microcontroller
23. (original) The network termination unit of claim 20, wherein the means for controlling access to content and the means for timing are provided by a central processing unit.
24. (original) The network termination unit of claim 20, wherein the means for providing alternative content is located in a memory located in the network termination unit.

25. (original) The network termination unit of claim 20, wherein the means for providing alternative content is a connection to a remote server.
26. (withdrawn) A video content server, comprising:
- a) a means for receiving signals from at least one network termination unit, wherein the signals include a pause signal;
 - b) a means for storing alternative content; and
 - c) a means for transmitting operable to transmit alternative content to network termination units sending pause signals.
27. (withdrawn) The video content server of claim 26, wherein the signals received include content identification signals and the alternative content transmitted is based upon the content identification signals.
28. (withdrawn) The video content server of claim 26, wherein the alternative content transmitted is determined by user preferences.
29. (withdrawn) The video content server of claim 26, wherein the means for storing alternative content includes advertisements.
30. (withdrawn) The video content server of claim 26, wherein the means for storing alternative content includes music.
- 31-33. (canceled)